WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device comprising:
a penetrating member for piercing tissue.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member is configured to reduce the volume or friction of a penetrating member shaft in the skin.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member comprises a distal tip having a first cutting facet and a second cutting facet.

4. The device of claim 1 wherein primary facet length of the penetrating member is less than about 1.0 mm.

5. The device of claim 1 wherein primary facet length of the penetrating member is more than about 2.0 mm.

6. The device of claim 1 wherein a ratio of primary facet length to side facet length is less than 2.24:0.63.

7. The device of claim 1 wherein a ratio of primary facet length to side facet length is less than 2:1.

8. The device of claim 1 wherein a ratio of primary facet length to side facet length is less than 2:1, and wherein primary facet length of the penetrating member is less than about 1.0 mm.

9. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a primary facet length greater than about 1.60 mm.

10. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a primary facet length greater than about 1.70 mm.

11. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a primary facet length greater than about 1.70 mm.

12. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a primary facet length greater than about 1.80 mm.

13. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a primary facet length greater than about 1.90 mm.

14. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a primary facet length greater than about 2.00 mm.

15. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a primary facet length greater than about 2.10 mm.

16. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a primary facet length greater than about 2.20 mm.

17. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a primary facet angle less than about 7.0 degrees.

18. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a primary facet angle less than about 7.5 degrees.

19. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a bevel joint length less than about 0.24 mm.

20. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a bevel joint angle is less than about 16 degrees.

21. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a bevel joint angle is less than about 15.5 degrees.

22. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a diameter less than about 0.32 mm.

23. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a diameter less than about 0.30 mm.

24. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a cutting efficiency sufficient to bring at least 1 micro liter of blood to a skin surface after penetrating about 600 to 800 microns into the skin.

25. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a cutting efficiency sufficient to bring at least 1 micro liter of blood to a skin surface after peentratign about 0.5 to 1.0 mm into the skin.

26. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member comprises a shaft having a half-round bar stock.

27. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a oval cross-section.

28. The device of claim 1 wherein a portion of the penetrating member has a first cross-sectional volume and a second cross-sectional volume greater than the first.

29. The device of claim 1 wherein a front end portion has a smashed end configuration.

30. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member has a splined cross-section.

31. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member is a bare lancet without any molded attachments.

32. The device of claim 1 wherein the penetrating member further comprises a molded attachment coupled to a shaft portion of the penetrating member.

33. The device of claim 1 further comprising an electric penetrating member drive to advance the penetrating member into tissue.

34. A cartridge containing a plurality of penetrating member as described in claim 1.

35. A radial cartridge containing a plurality of penetrating member as described in claim 1.

36. A method of body fluid sampling for use on tissue, the method comprising:

using a penetrating member having a reduced volume;

advancing said penetrating member into the tissue to create a wound channel.

37. A method for controlling depth of penetrating member motion into a patient, said method comprising:

advancing a penetrating member exhibiting reduced penetration resistance.